

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 133381
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133381

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CFED, SA, KU, TC, US

SUBJECT: GAO SURVEY

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM GAO WITH FOLLOWING
SUBSTANTIVE TEXT. QUOTE:

WE PLAN TO CONDUCT A SURVEY OF ARABIAN PENINSULA VIEWS ON
THE AVAILABILITY AND SECURITY OF U.S. SUPPLIES OF OIL.
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT IS UNDERScoreD BY FORECASTS
OF OIL SHORTAGES IN THE NEXT 5 TO 10 YEARS AND THE UNIQUE
CAPABILITY OF ARABIAN PENINSULA COUNTRIES IN MEETING
GROWING U.S. AND WORLD DEMAND.

WE PLAN TO DISCUSS PERTINENT ISSUES WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE
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OFFICIALS IN SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, AND THE UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES, INCLUDING OFFICIALS OF THESE FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS,
U.S. EMBASSIES, OIL COMPANIES, AND OTHER U.S. AND FOREIGN
COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

WORK ON THIS ASSIGNMENT WILL BE PERFORMED IN THE THREE
COUNTRIES AFTER WE CONTACT APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON BASED

AGENCIES TO DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK AROUND WHICH THE FIELD WORK WILL BE PURSUED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR NOTIFYING YOUR EMBASSIES OF OUR PLAN TO BEGIN ABOUT 5 WEEKS OF IN-

COUNTRY WORK AROUND OCTOBER 1.

WE WILL PROVIDE THE ARABIAN PENINSULA AFFAIRS OFFICE WITH FURTHER DETAILS OF THE ISSUES WE PLAN TO FOCUS ON DURING OUR IN-COUNTRY WORK, AFTER WE COMPLETE THE WASHINGTON PORTION OF THIS SURVEY. UNQUOTE.

2. FROM INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH GAO STAFF SOME WEEKS AGO, ARP HAS IMPRESSION THAT THRUST OF STUDY, INsofar AS IT IS YET CLEAR, WOULD BE TOWARD BASIC POLITICAL FACTORS INFLUENCING OIL POLICY DECISIONS OF PERTINENT PRODUCER COUNTRIES AND THAT THE STUDY WOULD NOT FOCUS ON TECHNICAL, STATISTICAL OR ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF PENINSULA OIL INDUSTRY. ARP SOUGHT TO IMPRESS ON GAO STAFF NEED FOR THOROUGH RESEARCH AND PREPARATION IN U.S. BEFORE UNDERTAKING FIELD WORK, IF ANY SEEMED REQUIRED, AT ADDRESSEE POSTS. STAFF APPEARED TO ACCEPT THE LOGIC OF THIS, BUT NEVERTHELESS INDICATED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR SPENDING SOMEWHAT MORE TIME IN THE FIELD THAN ARP HAD SUGGESTED MIGHT BE NECESSARY.

3. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO BE COOPERATIVE IN THIS GAO UNDERTAKING AND FEELS STUDY WOULD BENEFIT FROM GAO STAFF HAVING SOME EXPOSURE TO ARABIAN PENINSULA ENVIRONMENT AND DISCUSSION WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL ON THE SCENE. CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSIES' VIEWS HOWEVER ON PERTINENCE AND DESIRABILITY OF DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN GAO SURVEYORS AND PEOPLE IN-COUNTRY WHO ARE NOT U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE COMMENTS ON HOW SUCH CONTACTS MIGHT BEST BE HANDLED BOTH TO FURTHER PURPOSE OF SURVEY AND AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF HOST GOVERNMENT. PLEASE REPLY STADIS, NEA ONLY. VANCE

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